Finding the Right Databases for Your Research

Introduction (5 minutes)
In this session, students learn how to locate and identify appropriate databases for a particular research topic.

Demonstration of Technique (5 minutes)
The librarian models the process of finding a database; the discussion includes an introduction to the following pages and features:
- Library homepage
- “Electronic Resources” page for locating known databases
- Library Search box
- Subject Guides
- Finding Articles tab
- List of databases with descriptions

Resource Types for Practice
The librarian assigns a range of resource types to each student group; these resource types should lead students to select different databases to meet their needs. For example, for a History class, the resource types might be:
- scholarly sources on piracy,
- current newspaper accounts of piracy,
- historical newspaper accounts of piracy
- primary sources on piracy,
- biographical sources about pirates.

Applying the Technique (5 minutes)
- Students work in groups, with an assigned HD TV screen, using tablets to determine the right database(s) for their assigned topic. They project their selection to the group's screen.
- What factor(s) led you to choose that database?

Presenting Your Findings (5 minutes)
- Each group presents its findings, displaying them on the front screen and group screen.
- The Librarian responds to each selection, discussing the features and resources and providing students with feedback.

Debrief
- Any questions?

Closing
Ask all students to take the brief classroom survey.